

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF KAMPALA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE MINISTRIES OF JULY 2009**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Kampala School of Excellence Ministries (KSEM) is a charity organization that was started in 2000 with an aim of developing the talents of vulnerable young people in sports in order to equip them with skills to enable them live a sustainable life of comfort. The Organisation is dedicated to ensure child care and protection through, sensitization Community outreach programmes and networking in order to promote productivity, innovation and self reliance among young people in Rubaga Division in Kampala. KSEM aspires to represent the collective independent voice of the disadvantaged youths endowed with talents through sports and other activities. Currently KSEM is caring for 85 children (15 girls and 55 boys) of which 30 boys reside at the KSEM Home and 55 reside in their homes within the proximity of the Ministry Headquarters.

### **KSEM HOME**

The children's home has this month gone through a number of changes both positive and negative. However the negative changes come as challenges to be overcome. These include the following.

- The children have progressed with their art project and have improved on their works. The Oven has been of much importance helping the kids bake their clay models. They have been also involved in drawing and their pieces are on display at the children's home.
- The children also played a soccer match with a refugee school (Hope Primary School) sponsored by soccer Beyond Borders an American based sports organisation. The KSEM children won the match and took the trophy. It was a good experience having orphaned children joining with their refugee counterparts in a soccer match.



**Picture 1 - KSEM (in Blue) with the Hope team (in Red)**

**Picture 2 - Johnson from KSEM speaks about the experience after the game**

- The children have also been introduced to music. It was discovered that not all children are interested in sports or art and craft making and that some possessed talent in music and drama. Consequently Patrick a member of the KSEM staff has started giving them basic training. This includes traditional music and church hymns.
- The Home has also received a new maid replacing the lady who resigned to dedicate more time to her family. Mr. Semakula Geoffrey will now be in charge of the children's welfare at the home alongside the bigger boys. He brings with him experience in this area especially concerning preparing meals. Geoffrey will also be helping the young kids like Richard, Yosia, Kagimu and Eria with bathing, washing and ironing their clothes and also their wellbeing. He has so far done a good work and more is expected of him.



*In the picture is Semakula and on the other hand when he is at duty*

- In the last report it was included that indiscipline among some children had been evident. We are proud to report that there has been a decline in indiscipline cases with the exception of simple quarrels and fights characteristic of children of this age. This has been due to the fact that the children have been involved in time consuming activities such as art and craft making, music and sports leaving no room for idle minds to enable mischief.
- Also our new project officer Patrick who works alongside Moses the administrator has helped a lot in working on the children's discipline especially as regards counseling. He leads them in prayer and praise sessions each night. Before then, he conducts art lessons and helps with music and craft making on the weekends and on some nights.
- An opportunity for counseling the children about behavior change manifested when an HIV positive Teenage (Godfrey) who came to the home in search of a job to enable him raise money to transport him back to his home village in Rwanda told a story that touched the lives of the children. He counseled the children to behave well and not to misuse the opportunity they had and while reflecting on his life; ***he told them not to disappoint their guardian (Daniel) just as he disappointed his parents who had high hopes in him.*** The man in his mid-20s told the story of his life and also appreciated the work done by Daniel in helping the kids. He said he had always been watching him for a period of 2years and wanted to see him to thank him for the work but had never got the opportunity. Unable to find him a job, Daniel gave him transport to return to his home village and prayed for him for his healing. He promised to share this with his parents and also promised to come back someday if all goes well for him.

### **Challenges**

- There has been abstention from school on the part of a number of children at the home. This was due to sickness especially skin rashes picked from school. One child was reported to have contracted measles, and three other were diagnosed with malaria. Another 4 were abstained from school because they had a bad skin rash picked from school. Consequently all children have received medical attention while at home.



*Richard has developed a swelling under his armpit and he's been falling sick quite often.*

- The increase in the prices of different commodities especially food prices due to changes in the climatic conditions has not isolated KSEM. The country is currently facing a drought and famine in especially the food producing regions and this has offset a hike in food prices.
- The children also still don't have enough clothes, while efforts have been made to get for them clothes, not everyone has had a chance to get enough. Save for the smallest boys who have more clothes than the rest, others have two or three pairs which are worn out.

#### **What the children say.**

This month we have included the children's testimonies of change in their lives. We asked them to write down what they felt has changed in their lives and their stories were edited for grammatical mistakes.

*"I have been challenged to improve on my art work. I think am becoming more perfect everyday with practice. I am happy to be living with the rest of my friends at the home", Says Noah Senkumba.*

*"They used to chase me (away from school) for school fees and I spent a lot of time home but now am working well in class because am not chased away. I want to be the best in my class this term", Says Ssebunnya Jimmy*

*"Am happy with my life today, I have a lot of friends with whom we share the same background and I feel at home unlike the time when I used to live with my distant relative", Says Katta Joseph.*

#### **Progress of the projects**

##### **Bakery Project**

The progress of the bakery project is encouraging when evaluated against the set objectives. The bakery project has so far been successful for the period it has been in operation. The bread produced is enough for the KSEM family to feed on. Kampala School of Excellence Ministries has purchased a small energy-saving Oven to facilitate the implementation of the project. It has also enlisted the services of a local baker to help

teach the children the basics of baking. Kampala School of Excellence Ministries sends the children to local bakeries on apprenticeship programmes to enable them gain more skills. Nevertheless, members have gained skills in bakery which need to be polished with practice. However the need for the construction of a larger plant is enormous.

### **Farm project**

Kampala School of Excellence Ministries has embarked on an agricultural production project under which a 6 acre farm been put in place. The organisation has secured the 6-acre piece of land from one of its associates on a renting basis. The organisation then established a 3-acre farm to include Cassava, Maize and potatoes. The organisation has overseen the clearing of the bush and tilling of the land preparing it for planting which is due at sight of the first rains. Plans are underway to expand the cultivated space to maximally exploit the whole 6 acres alongside setting up the poultry project on this same piece of land.

### **Prospect**

KSEM also expects to exploit the possibility of establishing a maize plantation in Mityana 40Miles away from Kampala. The 6-acre piece of land owned by another KSEM associate and well-wisher will be secured on a renting basis at a subsidized rate. KSEM will establish a maize plantation with an ultimate goal of producing Maize on a large scale for commercial production. The organization also plans to establish a maize mill alongside encouraging the neighboring communities to venture into maize production. The main idea behind this large-scale venture is to maximize production and cut on processing costs. While KSEM might not be able to produce beyond an estimated limit, the establishment of a maize mill in the designated area will inspire out-growers in the surrounding communities

### **Poultry**

With a grant from the Kitchen Table Charities Trust Fund, Kampala School of Excellence Ministries has established a chicken poultry project to diversify the children's diet while earning income to sustain the organisation.

While initial plans were to establish the project at the orphanage home to tap labour and avail hand-on poultry keeping skills to the children, the limited space available made it impossible and thus arrangements were made to transfer it to Nakifuma (Mukono district 40 km south of Kampala) where the organization established an agricultural farm on a piece of land rented from a close associate. The organisation has kicked off the project with construction of a chicken house at the farm. The fumigation of the above facility as a precautionary safety measure has also been completed. This was followed by the purchase of the chicks and their maintenance requirements including poultry feeds and medicine for vaccination. The organisation has purchased 300 chicks for this project.

### **Appreciation**

The KSEM family extends its warmest appreciations to all its partners, well-wishers and friends both within the country and in the UK for the support both moral and financial.

Prepared by

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